

Reader's Theater Scripts

10 Favorite Tales for Grades 1 - 3

The City Mouse and the Country Mouse
Retold & adapted by Anna Geiger

Narrator 1

The Princess and the Pea
Retold & adapted by Anna Geiger

Narrator Mindy Cindy

The Tortoise and the Hare
Retold & adapted by Anna Geiger

Narrator Tortoise Hare

The Three Little Pigs
Retold & adapted by Anna Geiger

Narrator Pig 1 Pig 2

The Gingerbread Man
Retold & adapted by Anna Geiger

Narrator Old Man Old Woman

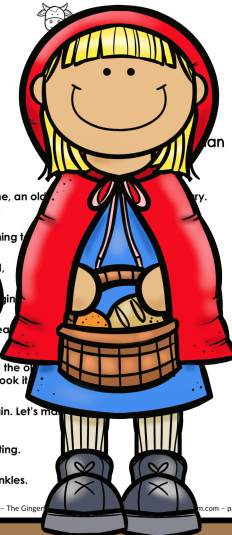
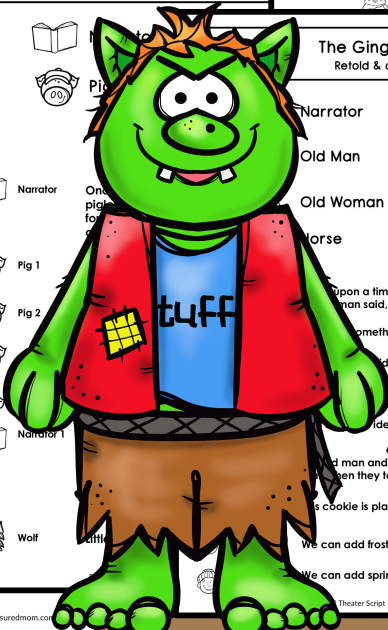
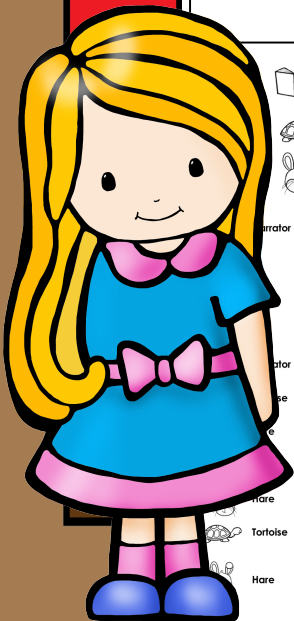


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*In general, the scripts are in order from simplest to most challenging. “The City Mouse and the Country Mouse” is the easiest script. “Hansel and Gretel” is the most challenging script.



HOW TO USE THESE SCRIPTS

What is Reader's Theater?

Reader's Theater is an enjoyable and effective strategy for developing fluency. It is a style of theater in which students do not memorize their lines. I've always told my students that Reader's Theater is acting with your *voice*. No props are needed. Instead, students read from scripts using their best expression. There's no need for scenery or movement on stage. Props and costumes are entirely optional.

How to introduce the scripts

I recommend reading at least one of the recommended read alouds (listed in the teacher notes for each script) before introducing a script. This will ensure that every student is familiar with the tale.

Distribute a copy of the script to each child (stapled copies are fine). Read it aloud several times. Encourage children to join in (choral read) as they are comfortable.

Be sure to model good expression and rate. Change your voice as appropriate (deep for the Wolf's voice, shaky for the Old Woman's voice, etc.). Try echo reading: you read a line, and your students repeat it with the same phrasing and intonation.

Assigning roles and practicing the scripts

You may wish to divide your students into groups so that each group can practice the script and no one is left out.

Assign reading parts to each child depending on his/her reading ability and interest. The Notes for the Teacher indicate which parts are more/less challenging.

Have students use a highlighter to mark their parts. While you can always staple the scripts, you might wish to hole punch them and put each script in a 3-prong pocket folder. This gives a cleaner look when students perform, and it makes it easier to turn the pages.

Give students ample time to practice their parts before their performance. Practice may occur during small group instruction, at centers, and/or at home.

The lines are numbered for easy reference. You can tell students to practice a particular set of lines (Lines 1-15, for example), or call attention to a particular line ("Wolf, read line 15 again").

Performing

Students will only need their scripts to perform. You may wish to include a few props, but I recommend using very few (if any). Masks make it difficult to speak loudly with expression and are not recommended. If you'd like to include props, consider very basic costumes (such as a hat or scarf) and small items that will not get in the way.

Students can perform for the rest of their class, students in other classrooms, school staff, visiting parents, etc.

Have fun!

The Three Billy Goats Gruff

Notes for the Teacher

CHARACTERS

- Narrator– 11 lines
- Littlest Billy Goat Gruff – 6 lines
- Middle Billy Goat Gruff – 7 lines
- Biggest Billy Goat Gruff – 5 lines
- Troll – 9 lines

LENGTH

The script is about 3 ½ pages long and takes about 3 ½ minutes to perform.

NOTES

- The Troll has the simplest lines because they are in rhyme and are repetitive.
- Because billy goats are male goats, all the goats are male characters. If you choose to have a girl play one or more of the parts, you might wish to keep all narrator lines with the male pronoun (since a female goat would technically be a nanny goat).

SIMPLE SUGGESTIONS FOR COSTUMES / PROPS

- The goats could wear bells around their necks.

RELATED BOOKS

- *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, by Paul Galdone
- *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, by Jerry Pinkney
- *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, by Stephen Carpenter

The Three Billy Goats Gruff

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Narrator



Middle Billy Goat Gruff



Littlest Billy Goat Gruff



Biggest Billy Goat Gruff



Troll



Narrator

Once upon a time, three goats lived in a meadow. There was a big billy goat, a middle sized billy goat, and a small billy goat. They were called the Billy Goats Gruff. One day, the Littlest Billy Goat Gruff said,

1



Littlest Billy Goat Gruff

We do not have much grass left to eat. We must cross the bridge to get to the grass on the other side.

2



Middle Billy Goat Gruff

We can't do that! A big, ugly troll lives under the bridge. He won't let us cross.

3



Biggest Billy Goat Gruff

We must be brave. Little brother, you go across first. If the troll wants to hurt you, tell him that your big brother is coming after you.

4



Littlest Billy Goat Gruff

I will go.

5



Narrator

The Littlest Billy Goat Gruff came to the bridge. Trembling, he began to walk across. TRIP, TRAP, TRIP, TRAP! Just then he heard,














6



Troll

I hear a trip; I hear a trap!
Who is keeping me from my nap?

7

	Narrator	The Littlest Billy Goat Gruff was scared.	8
	Littlest Billy Goat Gruff	It is I, the Littlest Billy Goat Gruff! Do not hurt me, Mr. Troll. I just want to eat the good grass on the other side of the meadow.	9
	Troll	I am big, and you are small! I will eat you, tail and all!	10
	Littlest Billy Goat Gruff	Oh, please do not eat me! Wait for my brother. He is bigger and tastier than I.	11
	Troll	I am hungry, but you are right. I will wait for a bigger bite.	12
	Narrator	So the Littlest Billy Goat Gruff crossed the bridge.	13
	Littlest Billy Goat Gruff	Oh, this grass is good and sweet! I hope my brother and sister can join me on this side of the meadow.	14
	Narrator	The Middle Billy Goat Gruff wanted to cross the bridge.	15
	Middle Billy Goat Gruff	I will cross the bridge next. But I am afraid of the troll.	16
	Biggest Billy Goat Gruff	Do not be afraid. If the troll wants to hurt you, tell him that your big brother is coming after you.	17
	Middle Billy Goat Gruff	I will go.	18
	Narrator	So the Middle Billy Goat Gruff came to the bridge. Trembling, he began to walk across. TRIP, TRAP, TRIP, TRAP!	19
	Troll	I hear a trip; I hear a trap! Who is keeping me from my nap?	20



**Middle Billy
Goat Gruff**

**It is I, the Middle Billy Goat Gruff. Do not hurt me, Mr. Troll.
I just want to eat the good grass on the other side of the
meadow.**

21



Troll

**I am big, and you are small!
I will eat you, tail and all!**

22



**Middle Billy
Goat Gruff**

**Oh, please do not eat me! Wait for my brother. He is
bigger and tastier than I.**

23



Troll

**I am hungry, but you are right.
I will wait for a bigger bite.**

24



Narrator

So the Middle Billy Goat Gruff crossed the bridge.

25



**Middle Billy
Goat Gruff**

**Oh, this grass is good and sweet! I hope our big brother
can join us on this side of the meadow.**

26



Narrator

The Biggest Billy Goat Gruff said,

27



**Biggest
Billy Goat
Gruff**

**I am not afraid of that troll. I will cross the bridge to be
with my brothers and eat the good, sweet grass.**

28



Narrator

**The Biggest Billy Goat Gruff crossed the bridge. TRIP, TRAP,
TRIP, TRAP!**

29



Troll

**I hear a trip; I hear a trap! Who is keeping me from my
nap?**

30



**Biggest
Billy Goat
Gruff**

**It is I, the Biggest Billy Goat Gruff. You do not scare me,
Mr. Troll!**

31



Troll

**I am big, and you are small!
I will eat you, tail and all!**

32



**Biggest
Billy Goat
Gruff**

I would just like to see you try!

33



Narrator

The angry troll climbed to the top of the bridge. But he was no match for the Biggest Billy Goat Gruff. The Biggest Billy Goat Gruff charged into the troll and knocked him off the bridge into the water.

34



Troll

Aaaaaaaah!

35



**Middle Billy
Goat Gruff**

Hurray!

36



**Littlest Billy
Goat Gruff**

You did it!

37

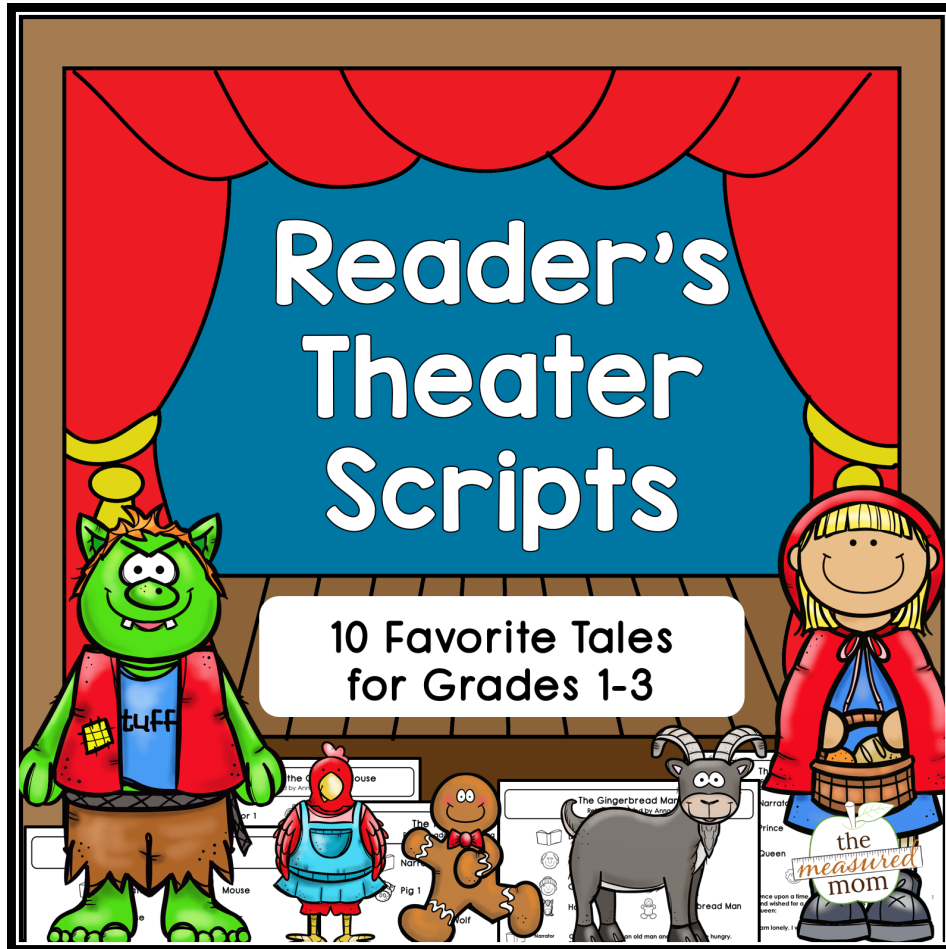


Narrator

Now all three Billy Goats Gruff could eat the good, sweet grass. And that nasty troll was never seen again.

38

PREVIEW



GET THE FULL SET!